

*Application No.: 10/629,752*  
*Art Unit: 3723*

*Attorney Docket No. 23055.00*  
*Confirmation No. 6807*

## REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 13, and canceled Claims 10 and 14. Claims 1-9, 11-13 and 15-18 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent claims.

In the recent Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mohlengraft (U.S. Patent No. 5,462,385) in view of Bigham (U.S. Patent No. 5,775,674). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mohlengraft in view of Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 6,375,162). Claim 15 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mohlengraft in view of Johnson, and further in view of Bigham. The Examiner allowed Claims 1-6 and indicated that Claims 8-12, 14 and 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

The allowance of Claims 1-6 is noted and appreciated. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is also noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 7 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 10. Also, independent Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 14. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submit that independent Claims 7 and 13, as amended, and corresponding dependent Claims 8-9, 11-12 and 15-18 are allowable over the prior art of record.

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For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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